

Sept. 13, 1978

STAT

Hon. Congressman Morgan F. Murphy
2436 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Murphy:

I am writing to you concerning the situation in Southeast Asia and especially Cambodia. Although I work for the Peace Corps and have no official governmental duties related to this area of the world, I have been active after hours in the organization of the June 12, 1978 Cambodian Commemoration Ceremony on the West Front of the Capitol and have tried to stay as informed as possible about this area of the world. Congressman Solarz was kind enough to insert my statement and the statement of my wife in the June 26, 1978 Congressional Record. My wife is from Cambodia.

Since our withdrawal from Southeast Asia some three years ago, there has been a great reluctance to formulate any policy regarding this area of the world. Despite our knowledge that there is continuing genocide in Cambodia, resulting in the slaughter of one third of the Cambodian population, we have maintained a policy, or rather non-policy, of watching and waiting.

Following Senator McGovern's statement calling for more dramatic action against the government of Cambodia, some policies are beginning to be developed by the Department of State. It has become clear to nearly everyone that as long as the tyrannical Pol Pot government remains in power in Cambodia, peace and stability for that region will be difficult if not impossible. Vietnamese control of Cambodia is an option which is also not likely to lead to peace and stability in that part of the world.

As a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, you understand that without direction from the National Security Council and your Committee, the CIA cannot even prepare an option paper regarding the possible alternatives for ending the genocide in Cambodia or for bringing peace and stability to Southeast Asia. The CIA is an important resource which should be utilized during the critical process of formulating a policy for Southeast Asia.

Can you use your influence to encourage the NSC to allow the CIA to simply prepare some option papers regarding what we could do in Southeast Asia and especially what could be done regarding Cambodia? Certainly seeing what the CIA has to say would not be harmful and their viewpoint should at least be taken into consideration in the formation of national policies.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely,
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Ed Strinko
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